

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method for providing an optical head in a read/write device comprising:
 - positioning a light source with respect to an optical head substrate;
 - positioning at least a first optical element along an optical path from said light source to an objective, said optical path defines at least a farthest virtual source point; and
 - providing at least a first beamshaper in said optical path wherein a farthest virtual source point of said optical path after said first beamshaper is provided is substantially the same as said farthest virtual source point before said first beamshaper is provided, and wherein the beamshaper changes an ellipticity of a light beam transmitted by the light source along the optical path.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said beamshaper and said first optical element are positioned on a single integral optical element unit.
3. (Original) A method, as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first optical element is a non-beamshaper element.

Claims 4 through 7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) Optical head apparatus for use in a read/write device comprising:
 - an optical head substrate;
 - a light source positioned with respect to said optical head substrate;
 - a first optical element positioned along an optical path from said light source to an objective; and
 - a beamshaper in said optical path, wherein a farthest virtual source point of said optical path after said beamshaper is positioned in the optical path is substantially the same as said farthest virtual source point before said beamshaper is positioned in the optical path, and wherein the beamshaper changes an ellipticity of a light beam transmitted by the light source along the optical path.

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9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11 (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein said beamshaper and said first optical element are positioned on a single integral optical element unit.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus, as claimed in claim 8 wherein said first optical element is a non-beamshaper element.

Claims 13 through 21. (cancelled)

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